(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "EU put off decision on Indian basmati" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 22nd February, 1997, if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether a complaint in this regard has been filed with WTO; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total quantity and value of Basmati Rice exported during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Quantity (MTs)	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1993-94	527233	1061.27
1994-95	468696	857.76
1995-96	392258	851.16
1996-97 (April—Dec.,'96)	342485	794.11

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of exports are available in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Yes, Sir. India has made its position known to European Union through diplomatic channels.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export Promotion Council for Granite Exports

2284. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set-up a separate Export Promotion Council for granite and allied products;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange earned against export of granite and allied products during the last five financial years;

(c) the impediments being faced by the exporters of granite in the country; and

(d) the plans Government initiated to redress the grievances of exporters of granite and allied products, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is annexed (*see* below).

(c) The major problems being faced by the granite exporters are as follows:

1. grant and renewal of quarry leases especially in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

2. royalty and dead rent rates.

3. denial of duty free import of mining machinery and equipment to 100% Granite Export Oriented Units; and

4. lack of a uniform policy in different states.

(d) The various constraints being faced by the Granite Industry have been taken up with concerned State Governments and other authorities.

Statement

(b) The following table shows the total amount of foreign exchange earned against export of granite and allied products during the last five financial years.

Exports in million Rs. (US $)

Total	Granite Rough/ Cut Blocks	Polished and other processed Granite Include Tiles	Total
1991-92	2619.1	1142.0	3761.1
	(106.3)	(46.3)	(152.6)
1992-93	3392.4	1747.4	5039.8
	(113.5)	(60.3)	(173.8)
1993-94	4075.0	2621.9	6696.9
	(129.4)	(83.2)	(212.6)
1994-95	5097.0	3959.7	9056.7
	(161.8)	(125.7)	(287.5)
1995-96	5721.6	5105.5	10827.1
(Revised estimated)	(170.8)	(152.4)	(323.2)
April/Dec. '96	3996.6	4096.9	8093.5
(Estimated)	(113.9)	(116.7)	(230.6)

Source: CAPEXIL

Irregularities in the Export of Rice

2285. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints have been received by the Ministry about irregularities committed in the export of rice from 1993 onwards;

(b) if so, the details of each complaint alongwith the names of the firms connected with it; and

(c) the total profit/loss in these deeds as also the action taken against the concerned officers/firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) 14 complaints relating to export of sub-standard rice/delay in shipments/ nonshipment of consignments have been received in the Trade Disputes Cell since 1993. The names of the firms are as follows:—

1. M/s. Darak Trading Co., Bombay.

2. M/s. M.M. Exports (P) Ltd., New Delhi.

3. M/s. Eastern Electronics (P) Ltd., New Delhi.

4. M/s. Amritsar Rice Mills. Amritsar.

5. M/s. Associate Exports, Delhi.

6. M/s. Will Imports & Exports Ltd., New Delhi.

7. Railway Board, New Delhi.

8. (i) M/s. Jagdamba Rice Mills, Delhi.

(ii) M/s. Amira Trading, Delhi.

(iii) M/s. Amira Foods, Delhi.

(iv) M/s. L. T. Overseas, Delhi.

9. M/s. Paam Eatables, New Delhi.

10. M/s. Kundan Rice Mills, New Delhi.

11. M/s. Associate Exports, Bombay.